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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ‘HONEST ADS ACT’**

October 19, 2017

I applaud the introduction of the bipartisan “Honest Ads Act.” Online political advertising has come to play an increasingly dominant role in campaigning. It’s well past time to ensure that political advertising on the internet is not held to weaker standards than advertising on more traditional media.

The revelations of Russian interference in our 2016 elections have created an all-hands-on-deck moment for our American democracy. At the Federal Election Commission, we have an opportunity and an obligation to improve the disclaimers that accompany online political advertising. The FEC is now taking public comments on this issue at fec.gov/netdisclaimers. We need the American public to give us your thoughts and expertise and to demand that the FEC convene a public hearing and take action.

Election Day 2018 is just 383 days away, but the campaign has already begun. Congress and the FEC must act now to protect this election and all our future elections. The “Honest Ads Act” will significantly strengthen the law and empower Americans by better illuminating how campaigns are being waged on the internet.